Expansion of commercial space launches by ISRO

1340. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether launching of ISRO's first commercial launch coinciding its 50th year celebrations has devolved more responsibilities to further improve its competitive capabilities with established international players like USA, Russia, Europe, etc., whether it would strive on leapfrogging to advanced versions of GSLV to facilitate launching of five tonne pay loads into geostationary orbit; and

(b) if so, whether ISRO would divert more funds and focus concerted efforts towards R&D in diversified relevant fields aiming at garnering substantial share of expanding commercial space launches world-wide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The capability of Indian Launch Vehicles, PSLV & GSLV, is being continuously improved to enhance the competitiveness in the global market. The development of GSLV Mk-III, advanced version of GSLV, capable of launching 4 tonne satellites into Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) is already in progress.

(b) Yes, Sir. As apart of Eleventh Five year plan, ISRO has already initiated R&D activities of relevance to advanced launch vehicle systems including reusable launch vehicles and advanced propulsion technologies, which will enable ISRO to increase its share of commercial launches.

Acquiring land for IIST

†1341. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in acquiring land for 'Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)' to be set up by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO);

(b) by when the work of acquiring land would be completed;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure timely completion of IIST building so that it can function smoothly; and

(d) to what extent setting up IIST would be helpful to provide new scientists and to prevent the senior scientists to go abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There is no delay in acquisition of land

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.